

Application No.: 10/033436

Case No.: 57283US002

Remarks

Claims 1 to 16 are pending. Claims 17 to 32 have been withdrawn from consideration.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 11-16 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiand in view of Romero.

In making this rejection the Office Action states as follows:

“Wiand teaches a backing, 12, having a first major surface including a uniform or random, (col. 3, lines 41-45), of non abrasive, 18, raised areas and depressed areas, and an opposite second major surface including a plurality of hook or loop elements integrally shaped into the second major surface, (14, col. 2, lines 33-37). Wiand teaches all the limitations of the claims except for an abrasive coating applied over the raised areas comprising silicon carbide abrasive particles and a binder make coating selected from acylate resins, and a size coating selected from a group consisting of phenolic resins over the make coat. Romero teaches an abrasive coating applied over the raised areas, (col. 4, lines 10-13), comprising silicon carbide abrasive particles and a binder make coating selected from acylate resins, and a size coating selected from a group consisting of phenolic resins over the make coat, (col. 8, lines 18-67). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to apply the coating over the raised areas, as taught by Romero, in order to enhance the efficiency of the abrasive article, and also since it is a old and well known practice in the art to apply an abrasive coating on an article instead of embedding the abrasive.”

Wiand, however, fails to report all elements of the pending claims; e.g., a) filament stems having flattened or rounded distal ends integrally shaped into said second major surface and  
b) hook elements integrally shaped into said second major surface.

Wiand, however, reports “the means for attachment may be any of the fabric-type fasteners such as a Velcro [*sic*, presumably VELCRO™] hook- or loop-type fabric-type fastener 14” (col. 2, lines 35-37). These fabric-type fasteners are adhered with adhesive to the back side of the disc, not “integrally shaped into said second major surface.” Romero fails to add sufficient disclosure to cure this defect.

Application No.: 10/033436

Case No.: 57283US002

The backing may be made in a single step (page 7, line 7), thereby avoiding multiple assembly steps that would be required in Wiand's product, also avoiding potential adhesive failure of an adhesively bonded VELCRO™ strip, since the backing is an integral unit.

The further combination of Law, in rejecting claims 3 and 10, likewise fails to provide sufficient disclosure to render obvious claims 3 and 10.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

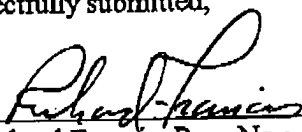
Allowance of claims 1-16 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

8/9/04

By:



Richard Francis, Reg. No.: 25,393

Telephone No.: (651) 733-7519

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833